2. Government have nominated National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) as a Central agency for price support operations in respect of pulses.

3. To augment the domestics supply, the import of pulses has been allowed under Open General Licence (OGL). NAFED has been nominated as the registering agency for import contracts for pulses. The exports of pulses have not been permitted.

4. In order to check the hoarding of pulses by the traders, stock limits of pulses for wholesalers and retailers in different cities have been fixed under the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977. State Governments have been advised to strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations against the blackmarketeers, hoarders and other anti-social elements.

Action against the officers of NCCF involved in embezzlement and fraud cases

1347. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1281 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the NCCF have now examined the authenticity of the certificate pertaining to the year 1981: and

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof and the details of action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The NCCF has reported that the process of verification about the authenticity of the receipts pertaining to the Rice deal of 1981 is yet to be completed, because HAFED who claim to have receipt given to them by Regional Manager (West) (since dismissed on some other charge) have not produced the original as yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Circular railway in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

1348. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RITES has conducted a survey for a circular railway in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the survey, length of the track, and cost of the project;

(c) whether the State Government has suggested formation of a consortium to undertake the construction work; and

(d) whether the Railways have agreed to be a part of the consortium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Hyderabad Area Transportation Study (HATS) earlier made two alternative proposals. This was considered by the Railways, who felt that inner circular railway would not be feasible. In order to validate the HATS' recommendations to determine a System of Mass Transit, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed RITES in March 1988 to prepare a techno-economic feasibility report for a Mass Transit Rail System.

(b) RITES have recommended provision of Light Rail Transit System in three phases:—

Phase-I: Balanagar to Khairatabad (9.549 kms)— cost Rs. 111.41 crores. (Approx.)

Phase-II: Khairatabad to Charminar (7.00 kms) cost Rs. 112.25 crores. (Approx.)

Phase-III Mozamjali Market to Dilsukh Nagar (5.99 kms)— Approx. cost — Rs. 82.92 crores.

The cost is based on 1988 prices.

(c) The State Govt. has requested that this project may be considered for funding by the Govt. of India and also to consider this project for bilateral aid or external aid.

(d) No, Sir.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. DISQUALIFICATION OF A MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to make the following announcement:

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, an elected Member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Jammu & Kashmir, addressed me a letter dated March 10 1989, which reads as follows:

"As you are aware, I was elected to the Rajya Sabha as a candidate of the Indian National Congress (I) from the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1986.

However, I have severed my political link and affiliation with that party for the last several months, and I have become a member of the Janata Dal. I am also a member of the Parliamentary Board of the Janata Dal and have been functioning outside Parliament as an active member of that party.

I am hereby officially conveying this information to you to enable you to take such action as you may deem fit in the matter."

The said letter was referred by me to the Leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party for information on March 28, 1989.

Shri V. Narayanasamy, Member, Rajya Sabha, filed before me a petition on April 28, 1989, under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rule 6 of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, praying that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, be pleased to hold that Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Member, Rajya Sabha, stands disqualified under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India and also declare his seat in the Rajya Sabha vacant.

I forwarded copies of the petition and the annexure thereto to Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and the Leader of Congress (I) Party in Parliament, under rule 7 (3) of the said Rules, on May 2, 1989, requesting them to forward their comments on the petition to me within seven days from the receipt of the same. I received a letter dated May 6, 1989, from Mufti Mohammad Sayeed by way of his comments informing me that he had nothing to add to what he had already written to me in his letter dated March 10, 1989.

Shri M. M. Jacob, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, who had been authorised by the Leader of Congress (I) Legislature Party for communicating with the Chairman for purposes of these rules, in his comments dated May 9, 1989, stated that he entirely agreed with the petition of Shri V. Narayanasamy. He further stated that Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had himself admitted that he had left the Congress (I) Party which set him up as a candidate for election to the Rajya Sabha and that this admission of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed itself was conclusive proof of his incurring disqualification as a Member of the Rajya Sabha on ground of defection.

After considering the comments of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Shri M. M. Jacob, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, in relation to the petition, I was satis-